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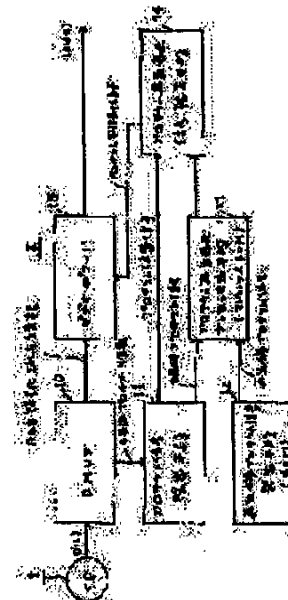
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(54) REPRODUCTION PROTECTION METHOD AND PROTECTION REPRODUCING APPARATUS

(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To perform a reproducing operation which is limited stepwise according to the intention of a medium producer, an apparatus producer and a seller by a method wherein protection information specific to a medium is combined with protection information specific to a reproducing apparatus and a protection level is decided.

CONSTITUTION: From information recorded in a CD 1, medium-protection information is separated by using a demultiplexer DMUX 10 for a CD player 2 so as to be input to a protection-signal detection means 11. By the means 11, medium-protection signal which indicates the permission degree of a reproduction display such as a mosaic, a low-speed shot which differs according to the intention, the age and the region of a user is output to a protection-reproduction-display-method decision means 13, and a protection-position signal which indicates a part to be protected is output to a protection-reproduction-display signal generation means 14. By the means 13, a reproducing-apparatus protection signal from a reproducing-apparatus-protection-signal generation means is combined with the medium-protection signal, a protection level is decided, and a protection control signal is generated via the means 14.



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